

- (7) Eureka Benevolent Society, San Francisco.
- (8) Los Angeles Humane Society for Children.
- (9) Native Sons' and Native Daughters' Central Committee on Homeless Children, San Francisco.

The work of these organizations is investigated and supervised by the State Board of Charities and Corrections. Thus there is provided a means for seeing that proper care is given every child whose natural home fails. But actually many children are placed in foster homes without record or investigation—largely because physicians and nurses are unacquainted with the machinery which has been described.

Some, however, fear that the regularly constituted means of handling these cases will bring undesirable publicity or notoriety upon the foster parents, the mother, or the child. This may indeed, happen, but almost always it can be, and is, avoided. Frequently it is desirable to conceal the facts from neighbors and others, and this can usually be done without interfering with investigation and supervision. Always it is the welfare of the child that is uppermost in our minds and this can be best safeguarded by handling these matters through the regularly established channels.

That there is justification for so great care is evident from known cases of improper placement and even complete disappearance of children. One well-known hospital in Alameda County permitted a child to be removed by a total stranger without even recording the address to which it was taken. Home-finding involves more than the initial act. It involves responsibility for seeing that the home is a suitable place for a child, that the foster parents are able and willing to give the child the care it needs and finally that they do give the child proper care and training. This requires an expenditure of time which the average physician is not able to give. Surely he will welcome a plan which relieves him of this great responsibility and at the same time assures the prompt and proper handling of these unfortunate children.

<sup>1</sup> Sec. 4, Chap. 569, Stats. 1911. It is hereby made a misdemeanor for any person or persons, either as individuals or officers of any association or society, to engage in the work of placing children into homes, or the soliciting of funds therefor, in this state without a permit duly executed in writing by the state board of charities and corrections, authorizing said persons or such association or society to engage therein, or to engage in such work after any permit has been canceled.

<sup>2</sup> Sec. 1, Chap. 69, Stats. 1913. No person, association, or corporation shall hereafter maintain or conduct in this state any maternity hospital or lying-in asylum where females may be received, cared for or treated during pregnancy, or during or, after delivery; or any institution, boarding house, home or other place conducted as a place for the reception and care of children, without first obtaining a license or permit therefor, in writing, from the state board of charities and corrections, such permit or license once issued to continue until revoked for cause after a hearing.

## PROGRAM

**THE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES A VERY FULL PROGRAM AND NO MORE PAPERS CAN BE ACCEPTED. THE ADVANCE PROGRAM WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE MARCH JOURNAL. LOOK FOR IT.**

## BOOK REVIEWS

**The Operations of Surgery.** (Jacobson.) Sixth edition. By R. P. Rowlands and Philip Turner. Vols. 1 and 2. Published by The Macmillan Company, New York. 1915.

This is the sixth edition of a very good operative surgery. Besides giving the usual features found in works on surgery it is replete with many matters of unusual and particular interest. Its chapters on lung surgery and wounds of the heart are particularly good. Every phase of modern surgery is dealt with in a comprehensive way; nothing seems to be too small nor overlooked; the major subjects are dealt with in a classical manner. It can be recommended as a vade mecum.

S. T. P.

**American Illustrated Medical Dictionary (Dorland).** New (8th) Edition Revised and Enlarged. A new and complete dictionary of terms used in Medicine, Surgery, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Chemistry, Veterinary Science, Nursing, Biology, and kindred branches; with new and elaborate tables. Eighth Revised Edition. Edited by W. A. Newman Dorland, M.D. Large octavo of 1135 pages, with 331 illustrations, 119 in colors. Containing over 1,500 more terms than the previous edition. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1915. Flexible leather, \$4.50 net; thumb index, \$5.00 net.

We have commented most favorably upon previous editions of this invaluable dictionary; the present edition is, of course, enlarged and improved. It seems almost superfluous to say that a copy ought to be in the library of every physician—especially those who write papers for publication!

### Diseases of the Skin and the Eruptive Fevers.

By Jay Frank Schamberg, M. D., Professor of Dermatology and Infectious Eruptive Diseases in the Philadelphia Polyclinic and College for Graduates in Medicine. Third edition, revised. Octavo of 585 pages, 248 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1915. Cloth, \$3.00 net.

The author has improved his book in this edition by the revision of some of the chapters on syphilis in accordance with the very latest accepted ideas, and also by the addition of some excellent photographs, and considerable amplification of the sections devoted to the exanthemata.

The full discussion of the acute eruptive fevers with the accompanying very good illustrations is a most valuable feature.

H. E. A.